SEISDON
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1902.

WOLVERHAMPTON:
JOHN STEEN AND CO., PRINTERS, OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL WORKS.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b30077151

Penn Fields,

Wolverhampton,

February 16th, 1903.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Health Report for the Rural District of Seisdon for the year 1902.

POPULATION.

The Population is estimated at 12,894, being 181 more than the Census, viz. :—

An increase of 93 in Tettenhall.
,, ,, 62 in Kinver.
,, ,, 26 in Wombourn.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The Births this year show an increase of 3, and, curiously, an excess of males over females of 22, instead of the preponderance being on the side of females, as is usual.

	BIRTHS.			DEATHS.		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Tettenhall	52	40	92	25	20	45
Kinver ...	48	37	85	25	25	50
Wombourn	74	75	149	34	28	62
	174	152	326	84	73	157

	BIRTHS.	DEATHS.
Male ...	174 ...	... 84
Female ...	152 ...	... 73
	326	157

EXCESS OF BIRTHS.
169.

The Death Rate is only 12·1 per thousand, against an average of 15·1. This is the lowest Death Rate for many years, mainly to be accounted for by the cool summer causing less diarrhœa, from which there were no deaths, and there being no severe epidemics. The Death Rate in children under one year also is low—viz., 29, against an average of 39, which is due, I fear also, to the lack of summer diarrhœa, instead of the increased wisdom of mothers.

There was only one case of uncertified death. There has been a decided improvement lately in this respect.

Causes of Death for the last 10 years:—

Causes.	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902
Small Pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlatina	..	3	2	2	2	2	..	3	..	..
Diphtheria	..	3	3	3	2	..	1	..	1	1
Croup	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	2	..	..
Fevers. Typhus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fevers. Enteric	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..
Fevers. Continued	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fevers. Relapsing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fevers. Puerperal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	..	2	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..
Measles	..	1	..	2	4	6	..	4	1	..
Whooping Cough	..	1	6	1	6	1	4	6	3	2
Enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	4
Diarrhœa and Dysentery..	12	5	3	8	9	6	7	2	7	..
Rheumatic Fever	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..
Phthsis	9	18	9	7	13	9	7	12	7	7
Bronchitis. Pneumonia, and Pleurisy ..	32	24	55	32	41	38	49	24	16	29
Heart Disease	12	24	16	12	21	18	21	39	30	17
Injuries	9	4	10	1	8	7	6	4	11	9
All other Diseases	86	84	106	111	100	93	106	119	87	88
Totals	160	169	213	180	208	182	205	215	166	157

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.—Of this disease there were 14 cases, with no deaths. Ten were removed to the Isolation Hospital. As there has been a very large amount of this disease all round our district we have escaped well. The origin of all these cases was traced to our neighbours.

Diphtheria.—Of this disease there were 8 reputed cases, but they were not all corroborated by bacteriological analysis. There was only one death; in which case, but for our action in the matter, the corpse would have lain for two or three days decomposing in the only bedroom in the cottage, and probably viewed by friends and neighbours.

Typhoid Fever.—Again there were no cases.

Measles.—There was one sudden outbreak in Upper Penn Parish, on account of which the schools were closed from February 26th to March 24th.

Mumps.—There was a severe epidemic at Pattingham, on account of which the schools were closed from November 4th to November 24th.

Small Pox—with which we have been threatened—fortunately has not yet visited us. I must congratulate you in having provided an Isolation Hospital for this complaint since my last Report, while your neighbours are still talking about it.

Vaccination does not meet with much opposition, though 32 children over six months old not yet accounted for, or about one in ten, is far too many. There are a good number of defaulters in the Wombourn district who have not been proceeded against. Insufficient vaccination in one or two small places is unfortunately very common and is much to be deplored, as it is very little use but evades the law.

SANITARY WORK.

Tap Water has been laid on to 44 houses, and six wells of pure water provided for a dozen more.

Pure water for Kinver is still not provided, and I hear of no steps being taken in that direction, for all my strong representations upon this matter in my last Report. Five samples were examined from the village of Kinver, and all condemned as being unfit for consumption. One sample at Newtown was found good. Surely pure water could be provided from artesian wells, or caught on the neighbouring hills and conveyed to the main street at the very least.

This matter is very serious, as Kinver is visited by so many thousands in the course of the year. Water, too, has not been provided to Swindon, though I understood you were arranging to do so long since.

Drainage.—A considerable amount of drainage has been done, more especially in the Parishes of Codsall and Penn, and a considerable amount more will be required at once for new houses springing up in the latter.

Kinver is still in a sad condition for want of drainage.

The difficulty of getting nightsoil removed in the districts of Wombourn, Kinver, and Autherley Lane is still great.

I again call your attention to the shocking state of several roads in the Parish of Penn.

A drainage scheme for Upper Penn is strongly before you, I understand, and hope the burden of it may not be considered by the Ratepayers to be too heavy for the price of health.

Further details of the sanitary work you will find appended in the Inspector's Report.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
H. R. SPACKMAN, F.R.I.P.H.

TABLE I.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Deaths under One Year of Age.		Deaths at all Ages.		Total Deaths in Public Institutions.
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births Registered.	Number.	Rate.*	
1892	12142	356	27·6	48	134·9	236	19·4	9
1893	12289	330	26·8	29	87·8	160	13·0	7
1894	12408	301	24·2	29	96·3	169	13·5	3
1895	12824	373	29·0	49	131·3	213	16·6	10
1896	13063	324	24·8	40	123·4	180	13·7	10
1897	13416	304	22·5	51	168·8	208	15·3	8
1898	13636	348	25 5	45	129·3	182	13·3	6
1899	13698	309	22·5	36	116·5	205	14·9	11
1900	13773	329	23·1	32	97·2	215	15·6	15
1901	12713	323	25·4	34	105·2	166	13·1	6
Averages for years 1892-1901	12996	329	25·1	39	118·9	173	15·1	8·5
1902	12894	326	25·2	29	88·9	157	12·1	6

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 35,748. Total population at all ages, 12,894.
Number of inhabited houses, 3,001. Average number of persons per house, 4.
} At Census of 1901.

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District:—Seisdon Workhouse; Bratch Isolation Hospital.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District:—Wolverhampton General Hospital; Women's Hospital; Eye Infirmary.

TABLE II.

Rural District of Seisdon.

Names of Localities.	TETTENHALL.				KINVER.				WOMBOURN.			
Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of e ch year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year
1892	3255	92	67	17	3147	79	60	8	5740	185	109	25
1893	3305	77	46	5	3143	76	42	5	5841	177	72	19
1894	3355	64	49	7	3194	82	43	4	5931	155	77	18
1895	3375	94	59	8	3429	87	53	13	6020	192	101	28
1896	3400	80	53	14	3523	84	44	11	6140	160	83	15
1897	3590	87	57	20	3625	68	52	8	6201	147	99	23
1898	3690	88	49	12	3660	83	59	11	6286	177	74	25
1899	3610	87	52	16	3708	75	64	10	6380	147	89	20
1900	3640	92	42	9	3713	91	61	10	6420	146	112	15
1901	3353	82	44	11	3158	70	44	10	6202	171	78	20
Averages of years 1892 to 1901 ..	3457	82·3	51 8	11 9	3430	79·5	52·2	9·0	6116	165·7	89·4	22·6
1902 ..	3446	92	45	9	3220	85	50	9	6228	149	62	11

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1902.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in whole District.						Total Cases Notified in each locality.			No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from each Locality.		
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.										
		1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 & upwards.	Tettenhall.	Kinver.	Wombourn.	Tettenhall.	Kinver.	Wombourn.
Diphtheria ..	8	2	2	3	1	..	5	..	3	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	5	..	..	1	3	1	1	1	3	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	14	5	6	2	1	..	5	6	3	4	3	3
Enteric Fever	3	..	1	1	1	..	2	..	1	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	31	7	9	4	7	1	14	7	10	4	3	3

TABLE IV.

I give here Comparative Table of Causes of Death, and Ages at which Death occurred, during the Year 1902.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined ages.							Deaths in Localities (at all Ages).			Deaths in Public Institutions.
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Tettenhall.	Kinver.	Wombourn.	
Whooping Cough .. .	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Diphtheria & Membraneous Croup	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Enteritis ..	4	2	2	..	..	..		2	..	2	
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..			2	..	..	..
Phthisis	7	...		..	2	5	..	2	4	1	..
Other Tubercular Diseases .	7	1	1	1	1	3	...	..	2	3	
Cancer, Malignant Disease ..	12	..		..	.	5	7	2	7	3	..
Bronchitis	20	2	4	.	1	3	10	3	12	5	.
Pneumonia	6	..	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	3	
Pleurisy	3	.	..	..	..	3	..	..	3	..	..
Premature Birth	6	6		..	..	..	..	5	1	..	
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	2	2	..	..	..	..	.	1	1	..	..
Heart Diseases ..	17	..	..	1	..	6	10	2	2	13	3
Accidents	5	..	1	3	..	1		2	2	1	..
Suicides	4	..	..	..	1	3	..	3		1	..
All other causes .. .	61	17	2	1	..	9	32	17	15	29	3
All causes ..	157	31	13	8	6	39	60	45	50	62	6

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES ABATED DURING THE YEAR 1902.

Number of Houses Inspected	453
Number of Notices on Books, 31st December, 1901...	16
Number of Notices served, 1902	66
Complied with	74
Leaving on the Books, 31st December, 1902 ...	8
Letters written relative to Nuisances...	136
Bakehouses Inspected	15
Slaughter-houses Inspected	13
Cow Sheds and Milk Shops Inspected	54
Canal Boats Inspected	81
Houses Repaired	21
Limewashed	32
Disinfection	25
Overcrowding	9
Yards Paved	6
Water Closets Repaired and Ventilated	4
Spouting fixed to Houses	2
Cellars Drained	1
Filthy Houses Cleansed	2
Wash-houses Repaired and Whitewashed	10
Privies Removed and Reconstructed	18
Emptied and Cleansed...	142
Ashpits Repaired	3
Ashpits built to Privies	6
Privies Repaired	19
Doors and Spouting provided...	5
Pan System Adopted	5
Privies Limewashed	21
Privies Drained	1
Carried forward ...	332

Brought forward ...	332
Urinals provided	4
Privies Drained	4
Drains laid to Houses	42
Repaired	48
Trapped	26
Cesspits Constructed	8
Cesspools Emptied	2
Foul Cesspools filled up	6
Foul Ditches Cleansed	6
Pigsties Removed	14
Ceased Keeping Swine	1
Catchpits built to Piggeries	3
Foul Pigwash removed	6
Manure and other Filth removed	23
Cow Shed Limewashed	2
Foul Piggeries Cleansed	6
Wells Sunk to New Houses	6
Tap Water laid on to Houses	5
Wells Cleansed	10
Wells Covered, Repaired, Paved, and Channelled ...	1
Tap-water laid to New Houses	39
Water Analysed—Wholesome	9
Polluted	8
Persons Summoned before the Magistrates	2
Total	613

WORKS DONE.

240 yards 6in. sewers laid in Oaken Lanes, and 498 in Codsall Wood Road by Mr. Cannan.

176 yards 6in. sewer laid in School Road, Bradmore.
178 yards 6in. sewer laid in Church Road, Penn Fields.
74 yards 9in. sewer laid in Church Road, Penn Fields.
252 yards 9in. sewer laid in Coalway Lane, Penn Fields.
88 yards 6in. sewer laid in Coalway Lane, Penn Fields.
47 yards 6in. sewer laid in Southan's Field, Penn Fields.
37 yards 6in. land drain pipes laid in Mr. Kinsey's Field, Bradmore.
110 yards 6in. sewer laid in Mrs. Graham's Field, Coalway Lane, Penn Fields.
6 Filter Beds constructed in Sewage field, Penn Fields.
66 yards 6in. land drain pipes laid in Sewage field, do.
66 yards 4in. land drain pipes laid in Sewage field, do.
66 yards Ash drain pipes laid in Sewage field, do.
45 yards 6in. sewer laid in Minett's Field, Penn.
60 yards 6in. land drain pipes laid in Minett's Field, Penn.
96 yards 6in. sewer laid in Church Road, Penn.
9 yards 4in. sewer laid in Church Road, Penn.
46 yards 4in. drain laid to Small Pox Hospital.
22 yards 9in. sewer relaid at Wombourn Common.
20 yards 6in. sewer relaid at Mill Lane, Wombourn.
32 yards Ash drain laid in Autherley Lane, Wrottesley.

John Steen & Co., Printers, Wolverhampton